

Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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News



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MONTANA'S LIBRARIES AND THE COAL SEVERANCE TAX

Since 1979, coal severance tax funds have provided \$2.5 million for libraries in Montana. These revenues are not accumulated as a growth fund. They are the key source of funding for the daily operations of library federations. Distributed through federations to libraries across the state, the funds are an important key in providing basic library services to all Montana residents.

By law, one-half of one percent of Montana's CST revenues are credited to the State Library Commission for the purpose of providing basic library services for the residents of all counties through library federations and for payment of the costs of participating in regional and national networking. These revenues have contributed significantly to library service throughout the state. They are the major source of funding for Montana's six public library federations and have provided the funds for the Montana State Library to take a leading role in the development of networking in the state's libraries.

In FY 1985, \$377,518 in CST revenue was distributed to support the basic lib-



Senator B.F. "Chris" Christiaens, Chairman of the Coal Tax Oversight Committee, and Sara Parker, State Librarian, review the coal severance tax's relationship to libraries.

rary services. Key services include interlibrary loan, reference and information, collection of books and materials, and staff planning and training. CST dollars provided support for 42,205 ILL requests that were processed by federations in 1985. 3,087 hours of assistance were provided to local libraries by federation staff through CST funds.

Costs associated with regional and national networking are also paid for with CST revenues. Computer database searching for public libraries and the State Library's participation in the Western Library Network are paid for with these revenues. In addition, through the state's federations, public library networking is supported through various recon projects and the purchase of the WLN Resource Directories for many smaller libraries.

Providing coal severance tax revenue for the federations also enables Montana to qualify for Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) funds. These federal funds provide for the extension of library services to citizens without services or inadequately served because of distance, physical handicaps, or other disadvantages. Montana must maintain its effort in providing state funds for these same purposes. The coal severance tax is used by the State Library Commission as part of the needed maintenance of effort.

GREAT FALLS MEETINGS

In late February, the Montana Library Services Advisory Council and the State Library Commission held joint and separate meetings in Great Falls. The Advisory Council made recommendations on Gramm-Rudman cuts in LSCA Title I and III. Those recommendations, later approved by the Commission, included a \$6,270 cut from the State Library's operating budget, deletion of funding (\$2,445) for the equipment acquisitions project for public libraries and \$3,795 from funds for

the evaluation of projects.

Five FY87 LSCA projects were given high priority by the Council:
(1) \$30,000 to the Western Library Network for the advancement of laser disc technology; (2) \$40,000 for WLN recon projects in large public libraries; (3) \$12,000 for Collection Development training; (4) \$36,000 for a cooperative automated circulation system; and, (5) \$12,608 for cooperative collection development grants. These recommendations will be voted on at the May State

Library Commission meeting in Kalispell.

The State Library Commission approved an LSCA grant to the Sagebrush Federation for the purpose of demonstrating a multijurisdictional library card. The Inter-Library Loan Committee was dissolved by the Commission with their work to be continued by the Automation and Collection Development Committees. The Commission also heard from Sara Parker, State Librarian, that a possible \$136,000 Gramm-Rudman reduction may face the State Library in FY 1987.

WORKSHOP ON MULTITYPE

Of special note at the MLA Conference in Kalispell is the preconference workshop on Multitype Library Cooperation being held at the Outlaw Inn on Wednesday, April 30 from 1:00-9:00 p.m.

With participants including members of the State Library Commission, Federation Advisory Boards, the State Board of Education and the Montana State Legislature, among others, the workshop will provide detailed view of the issues facing Montana for multitype library cooperatives function. Several times have been set aside for audience participation.

The workshop registration fee is \$36, including dinner. To encourage greater participation, the MLA Continuing Education Committee offered 9 full scholarships to the workshop.

PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN

At their joint meeting February 27th in Great Falls, Montana's Library Federation Coordinators voted to pledge \$12,000 for a statewide public relations campaign for Montana libraries. The following day, the State Library Commission voted to support the publicity campaign with an additional \$10,000. The public relations campaign will have three major objectives: 1) to increase Montana's awareness of public libraries, 2) to demonstrate that libraries can meet people's reading and information needs, and 3) to fulfill the charge of the Blacktail Statement for Federations to involve themselves in public relations.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Montana libraries are the recipients of two

grants from the Fred Meyer Charitable Trust. Montana State University received a \$136,900 grant to create a rapid document delivery system between the land-grant universities of the Northwest through the use of optical scanning technology. The Montana State Law Library received a \$134,600 grant to create an electronic document delivery network in Helena. Using tele-facsimile machines, documents will be delivered to persons in government, law, medicine, education and business, not only in Helena, but in other parts of the country that have compatible machines.

Linda Brander is coordinator of the Helena project.



Dogwood in Blossom

MPLA GRANTS

The Professional Development Grants Committee of the Mountain Plains Library Association will be awarding grants of up to \$500 to members of MPLA. They may be used for college classes, independent workshops, etc. For an application and more details, write: Joseph Edelen, MPLA Executive Secretary, c/o I.D. Weeks Library, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, S.D. 57069.

AROUND THE STATE

The new Havre-Hill County Library, now located in the former Havre Clinic, opened to the public on April 9th. Director Bonnie Williamson says the new library building has 12,800 square feet of floor space, more than double the total of the previous Havre City and Hill County Libraries. Library staff and volunteers, including school children, helped move the books into the new facility. Remodeling needed to redesign the clinic into a library was financed in part by an \$84,710 Library Services and Construction Act Grant.

Elizabeth Morrissett is leaving her position as Director of the Montana Tech Library in Butte to become Director of the Alaska Pacific University Library in Anchorage, Alaska.



Wally Bivins of the Aleph Movement Theatre in Helena performs during the Lunch & Learn Series sponsored by the Lewis & Clark Library during National Library Week.

Michaele Lee Huygen, previously with Chevron Oil in San Francisco, is the new reference librarian at Montana Tech.

On March 13, the Parmly Billings Library held a coffee hour for all comet gazers who are seeing Halley's Comet for the second time.

Lorena Towner has recently retired as Director of the Chouteau County Free Library in Fort Benton after 27 years with the library.

Bruce Newell, previously with Montana's Department of Administration, is the new Public Services Librarian at the Lewis and Clark Library in Helena.

Flathead County Librarian, John Bur

has resigned his position to become director of the Prescott, Arizona public library.

The Miles City Public Library is coordinating a multi-jurisdictional library card project that will allow library users in the Sagebrush Federation to borrow materials from any of 17 libraries in the region. Supported by an LSCA grant, the demonstration project will run through October 31st. School, college and public libraries are included in the demonstration.

The new addition to the Sidney Public Library had its grand opening on April 12th. Recent grants from the Burlington Northern Foundation and the Groskinski Foundation have helped provide furniture for the addition.

As part of the Joliet Community Library Project the Joliet School Library is being opened on a limited basis to the public.

Kathryn Kujawa is the new head of reference at the Great Falls Public Library. She replaces the recently retired Kay Courtneage.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New address for Fred Meyer Charitable Trust: Library and Information Resources for the Northwest (LIRN), 1515 S.W. 5th Ave., Suite 500 Portland, OR 97201 (503)228-5512

The Montana State Library requests that all libraries in the state that have newsletters consider adding the State Library to their mailing list.

Moncat supplements will be distributed in early May. The cost will be approximately \$30. Checks should be made out to the Western Library Network. Orders should be made through Darlene Staffeldt at the State Library.

A notice to those libraries that currently provide ILL statistics for the Montana State Library: please address them c/o Victoria Gabriel, Montana State Library, Helena, MT 59620.

The Mountain Plains Library Association has established an 800 in-watts number for its jobline. The service is free for MPLA members and \$20 for non-members. For further information call: 605-677-6082.

Barbara Temos from the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) will present 4 separate and distinct online workshops June 9th and 10th at Montana State University for database searching in BRS and DIALOG. For registration or more information, contact Tom Bremer at MSU Libraries: (406) 994-5295. Deadline for registration is May 16th.

For library trustees: an excellent article on the role of the public library trustee appears in the February, 1986 issue of Wilson Library Bulletin.

DIALOG Information Services will offer beginning and advanced classes in computer database searching at the Parmly Billings Library in Billings on June 26-27. For further information, call Jim Peters at Parmly Billings Library (657-8258) or DIALOG registration (1-800-334-2564).

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